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EUCAINE IN ATROPHIC RHINITIS

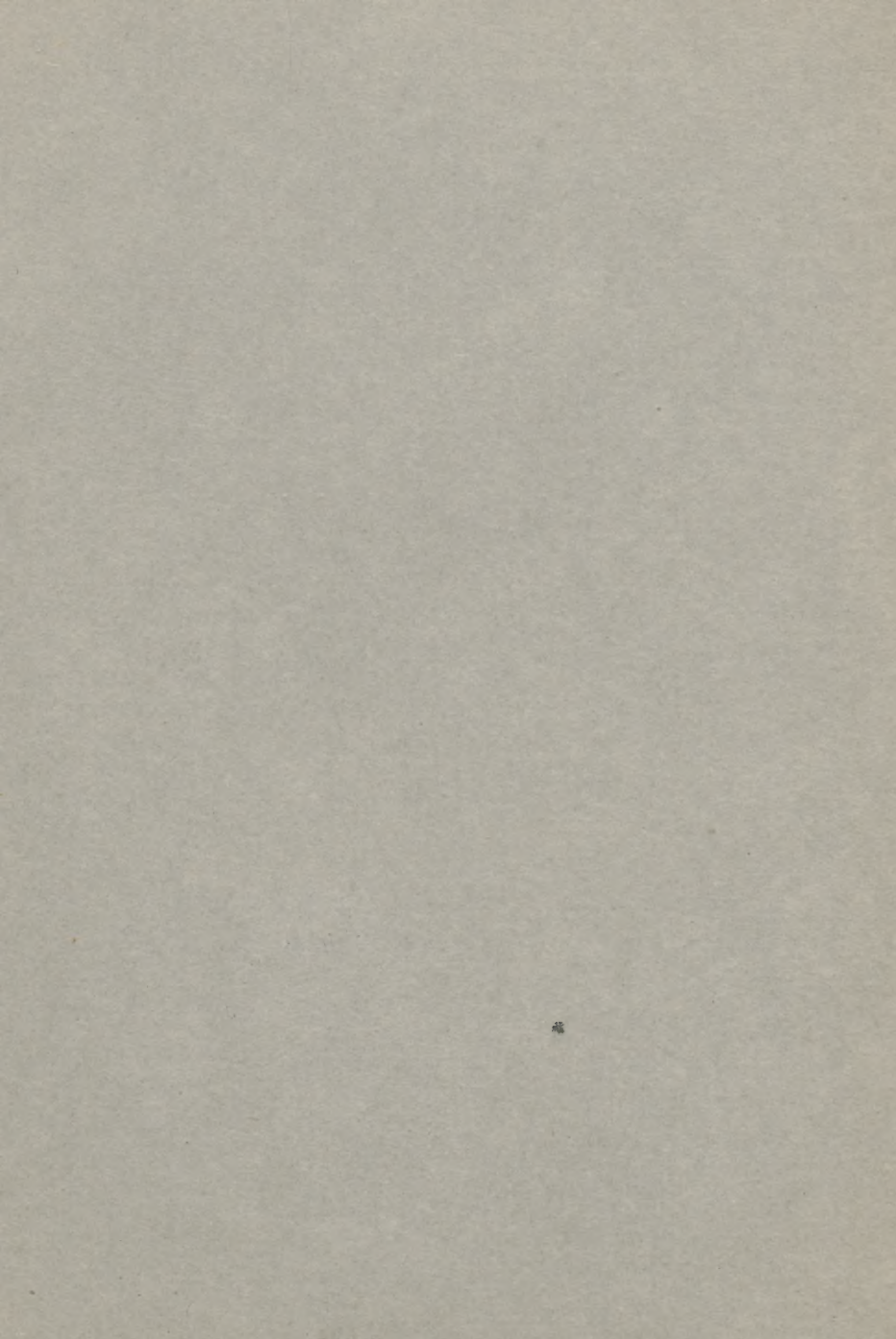
BY

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EUCAINE IN ATROPHIC RHINITIS.

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EUCAINE, unlike cocaine, possesses the property of dilating the vessels of the nasal mucous membrane. This vascular dilatation I have often noted, and I have found that it begins promptly, that it is well marked, and that it lasts a long time. Reflecting upon this effect of the drug, and upon the further fact that in atrophic catarrh the nasal mucous membrane is thin, pale, and poorly supplied with blood, I thought that possibly eucaine might be of service as a means of treatment in this disease. I accordingly tried it in a number of cases, of which I report only one, seeing that that one is typical of all.

Woman, aged thirty-five. Had had atrophic rhinitis since childhood. Had been treated before, and was using, at the time she came to me, a spray of Dobell's solution. The nasal mucous membrane was exceedingly thin and parchment-like. A five-per-cent. solution of eucaine was applied freely every day for three weeks. Under this treatment the mucous membrane became fuller and more vascular. The formation of crusts was much diminished, so that the Dobell spray did not need to be used with anything like the former frequency. The use of eucaine was continued three weeks longer, but no further improvement took place. Massage by means of Freudenthal's vibrator was then applied for two months, and the ultimate result was highly gratifying, crust formation being kept in abeyance merely by the use of Dobell's solution every second or third day.

In the other cases, improvement was no less marked than in the case reported. It is worth while to note

also that in every case such results as could be secured by eucaïne were secured in a very short time, after which further good results could indeed be secured, but only by the application of other means of treatment. The ultimate results in every case were unquestionably better than in any case I have ever treated in which I did not use eucaïne.

At the last meeting of the American Laryngological Association, Dr. G. A. Leland recommended the use of cocaine in the treatment of the disease under consideration. But the hyperæmia caused by cocaine is only secondary, and, moreover, is not very strongly marked, while the increase in blood supply following the use of eucaïne is very decided, and presents itself both early and late. Furthermore, in the use of cocaine there is vastly greater liability both to acute poisoning and to the formation of a disastrous drug habit.

